SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

New year, New successes

1970 *is gone, 1971 has begun.*

We have concluded a hard but fruitful year. In 1970, the Nixon administration continued stepping up its aggressive war and piling up fresh crimes against the South Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples. "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam was pushed up, special warfare in Laos intensified, a naked aggression committed against Cambodia, the flames of war spread all over Indochina. Like a wild beast at bay, US imperialism squirmed most frenziedly, but the more it flung itself about, the deeper it sank into the quagmire.

In 1970, tremendous efforts were exerted by the South Vietnamese to press their advantage and follow up their gains. Devastating blows were dealt by them at the US imperialists and their henchmen.

In spite of all enemy atrocities and murderous arsenal, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces kept up their offensives and uprisings in all the three strategic areas. Possessed of an acute sense of urgency and displaying great mobility in action, the PLAF used versatile methods of combat fitting each concrete situation and battlefield, checking the advance of enemy deterrent operations while erasing many of their enclaves on the fringe of liberated areas and making deep and destructive thrusts into theirs. Coordinating their efforts with the main force units, the regional army, guerillas and "political units" relentlessly pursued their military and political actions and contributed to the wiping out and disintegration of an important part of enemy strength, to the further strengthening of the offensive posture of the patriots on all battlefronts and to the shattering of the enemy apparatus of coercion. Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy with the "pacification" program as its strategic measure of implementation, was unable to progress and the puppet army and administration was driven into a dire predicament. The people of South Viet Nam kept on winning control over many areas. The free zone was continually expanded and consolidated. The city folk's movement considerably gained in both scope and intensity.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian and Lao peoples and their armed forces fought most valiantly and successfully. Under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people and army hit hard at the enemy, disabling a major part of their manpower, destroying a great quantity of their war materials and liberating immense areas. Under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong, the courageous Lao people and army recovered the whole area of the Plain of Jars, thwarted all enemy encroachments upon the free zone, mounted successful assaults on the Saravan and Attopeu chieftowns, consolidated the liberated areas from North to South and joined them to those of Cambodia and South Viet Nam, thus generating a new battle array eminently favourable to the anti-US effort of all the three Indochinese peoples.

(Continued on page 2)

SPRING and COMBATANT

Condemnation of US chemical war

THE recent International Conference of Scientists on the Chemi al War in Viet Nam (Paris) has issued a resolution condemning the US chemical war conducted against the Indochinese peoples.

The resolution said: "This International Conference of Scientists from fourteen countries, which was organized under the auspices of the World Federation of Scientific Workers and held at Orsay on December 12, 1970, has studied new informations concerning the magnitude of the chemical war conducted by the armed forces of the United States against the Indochinese peoples.

The use of these chemical products have increased incessantly since 1961 despite world-wide protests. Among these chemicals are defoliants and herbicides, particularly the 2, 4-D and the 2, 4, 5-T (the latter is known to contain a very noxious impurity — the dioxine) and the CS toxic gases.

The defoliants and herbicides are used in doses of much higher concentration than are used in agriculture, and in such conditions that their effects are much greater than are usually desired in agriculture.

There have been ample proofs today that the defoliants and herbicides directly affect the population and the fauna. One has every reason to think that an exposure to the defoliants can also induce sight troubles and genetic lesions.

Experiments made on laboratory animals have formally established the fact that the 2, 4-D, the 2, 4, 5-T and the dioxine provoke certain teratological effects and important internal modifications which are very likely to harm the transmissible patrimony.

The first clinical observations presented by Vietnamese doctors make one think of a direct relation between the exposure of the population to defoliants and the grave dangers, not yet assessed, which this type of warfare might impose on the present and future generations.

The proof of the direct effects of these defoliants on food plants, forests and the whole vegetation is unquestionable.

They result in a generalized famine and immense sufferings among the civilian population whose mode of living is thus profoundly upset. Their long-term effects can result in deep disorder, which is very likely to be irreversible, of the ecology, the soil and the climate in vast regions of Viet Nam.

As far as toxic gases are concerned it is evident that the way they are used in Viet Nam they have had long-term toxical effects. Their mortal effect has been established, and large numbers of people have fallen victim.

There is no doubt that the armed forces of the United States have used Viet Nam as test-ground for chemical warfare."

"The magnitude of the losses in human lives and the effects of all sorts on the nature make it possible for one to draw the conclusion that one is faced with a genocide coupled with a biocide," the resolution stressed, adding:

"We the participants of the Conference reaffirm our conviction that the use of products constitutes a flagrant violation of the regulations formulated in the 1925 Geneva Protocole and consecrated by the Resolution of December 16, 1969 of the United Nations.

We urge the immediate cessation of the use of chemical agents in war.

We condemned the veritable perversion of science and technology which include the massive and illegal making, development, and utilization of these products against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

We hail the brave stand of the various scientific circles in the United States against the use of chemical weapons in Indochina. We appeal to our colleagues in the United States and other countries to realize the tragedy and thus to join us in a world-wide protest against the use of defoliants and the other noxious chemical substances.

In face of the terrible upsetting of the ecology in Viet Nam, the magnitude of which is beyond man's imagination, we appeal to all scientific organizations in the world, particularly those affiliated to the World Federation of Scientific Workers, to join their efforts to organize, in diverse and appropriate forms an efficacious assistance to the Vietnamese people, and to study more profoundly the effects of the toxic chemicals used in this war, as well as the means to combat them."

The resolution said in conclusion:

"Because all the crimes perpetrated by the armed forces of the United States have their origin in the war of aggression they are conducting at present, we energetically demand the United States to put an end to this war and withdraw completely and unconditionally their troops from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Only at this price can rightness and justice be safeguarded."

Christmas' wishes

Letter to religious circles in the United States

From Mr **Joseph-Marie Ho Hue Ba**, *ex-Professor at the Cu Lao Gieng Seminary, President of the South Viet Nam Association of Devout and Patriotic Catholics, Vice-President of the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People, to religious circles in the United States on the occasion of Christmas* 1970.

Dear Friends,

ON the occasion of Christmas 1970, on behalf of devout and patriotic South Vietnamese Catholics, I should like to convey to you my Season's greetings and my best wishes of Happiness within Jesus Christ.

I express my deep sympathy with Americans having relatives killed in, or still condemned to, Mr Nixon's Viet Nam war.

While praying for peace, we are sad to note that for many years, countless Vietnamese and American families have not known Christmas reunion, and nobody knows how many more years will have to elapse before they are reunited.

On Christmas Eve last year, I still remember, thousands of Americans paraded with lighted candles and flags, chanting "End the war" and, "Vietnamization means continuation of the War." In a New York cathedral a roll-call for Americans having died in Viet Nam lasted several days.

"Vox populi vox Dei." Being a Christian, how has Mr Nixon responded to the will of God and of the people?

Before entering the White House, Mr. Nixon had promised to the American people an early end of the war. Then, he has always pretended to be the devoutest dove on earth!

However, nobody but President Nixon who has, over the past year alone, turned peaceful and neutral Cambodia into a new hotbed of war, fanned up the flames of "special warfare" in Laos, prolonged the war in South Viet Nam by means of its "Vietnamization," and, most recently, bombed the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, thus creating an extremely serious situation. In the United States, he has tried to drown the anti-war movement in a deluge of terror and deception.

God has taught us: Know one from what one does. (A fructibus lorum cognos cettscos, Math. VII, 16). What President Nixon has done in South Viet Nam is daily bombings, shellings and toxic chemical sprays, and the destruction of everything created by God, from crops, vegetation, cattle to water sources. Thousands upon thousands of people are tortured, imprisoned or massacred. Babies are barbecued, and virgins abused to death by Mr Nixon's satanic soldiers. Believers are not spared, either. Many priests are killed, monks and nuns persecuted, and churches destroyed.

(*Continued on page 7*)

New year...

(Continued from page 1)

What was made clear by the trend of events in Indochina in 1970 was this: US imperialism, in spite of its apparent ferocious war expansion, was plunged into a state of more serious passivity and an increasingly losing posture, while the peoples of South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, with the growing strength of each individual country and with the aggregate strength of the total 50-million population, had to face the most gruelling hardships but achieved substantial successes, and their final victory was a foregone conclusion. No doubt, 1970 was a year of dismal setbacks for the US aggressors and their agents and one of signal accomplishments for the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos on the military, political and diplomatic fronts.

It is in the flush of these feats in 1970 that we are entering the year 1971. The new year comes at a moment when US imperialism has not yet given up its aggressive designs and is still prolonging its war in South Viet Nam by means of "Vietnamization," intensifying its special war in Laos and its aggression against Cambodia and hatching new adventurist moves against North Viet Nam.

But the US aggressors and their valets are being confronted with unsurmountable difficulties. The dispersal and weakening of their forces are growing in proportion to their war prolongation and expansion. In South Viet Nam cities things have been going from bad to worse, their Saigon puppets have become more and more isolated and plagued with aggravating inner dissensions. US and puppet troops morale has sunk to reaching new low. Their failure in South Viet Nam and Indochina is inescapable.

The South Vietnamese people have been for decades fighting with self-abnegation to preserve their sacred national rights and right to self-determination. So long as US aggression lasts, they will resist it, arms in hand. If the US is reckless enough to indulge in venturesome acts of war against North Viet Nam, it will meet with a riposte five or ten times stronger by the South Vietnamese people.

President Ho Chi Minh has taught us: "Our people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, may have to go through even more difficulties and sacrifices, but we are bound to win total victory... The US imperialists shall have to quit. Our Fatherland shall be re-united under the same roof."

Welcoming the new year 1971, we are firmly resolved to translate into deeds President Ho's supreme directions and the Appeal of the NFL Central Committee and the PRG of the RSVN: to uphold and develop to the full our national traditions of unity and unflinching combativeness, to build up and expand our forces in an all-sided manner, to keep up and push ahead our resistance to US aggression, for national salvation, to foil the US imperialist neo-colonialist "Vietnamization" and "pacification" plans to force them to pull out all US and satellite troops and renounce the Thieu-Ky-Khiem fire-eating trio all and to agree to the formation of a broad government of coalition and to achieve peace, independence, democracy, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate national reunification. Our Northern kith and kin and we are determined to join forces with the brotherly peoples and armed forces of Cambodia and Laos to drive the US imperialists out of Indochina.

The US aggressors are still very obstinate and warlike, their schemes and deeds are extremely brutal. But they are politically alienated and weakened, their posture is on the downgrade, while ours is improving with every passing day. Time is on our side. Friends all over the five continents side with us. In the new year, we are sure of new greater, more brilliant successes as a result of new exertions and new favourable conditions.

On the threshold of 1971, we convey to friends the world over the expression of our sincere gratitude and our best wishes for good health, happiness, prosperity and success.

SOUTH VIET NAM

1970, A YEAR OF GREAT GAINS

1970 was marked by remarkable advances of the people of South Viet Nam and their liberation forces in all theatres of opérations.

Destruction of substantial enemy forces

IN such key sectors as Tay Ninh, Binh Long, Phuoc Long (Eastern Nam Bo), Chau Doc, Rach Gia, Ca Mau (Mekong Delta), the areas lying to the west of Highway 12 (Quang Tri — Thua Thien) and of Quang Nam — Da Nang (Central Trung Bo), the enemy deployed an important part of his forces, including general strategic reserves, to forestall PLAF offensives or mount local operations. It was there, however, that they sustained the heaviest losses in manpower and war material. About 18,000 men of three regular puppet divisions and two marine puppet brigades were wiped out in the Mekong Delta during the first three months of the year.

Enemy "preventive" operations were beaten off and defence lines breached by the People's Liberation Armed Forces. In summer, the US-puppets had to concentrate on consolidating their perimeters in the mountain regions, the plains and around the towns and cities to provide cover for their pacification units and push the war away from the urban centres. But coordinating military actions with uprisings in the main sectors of all those three strategic areas throughout summer, the people and the PLAF managed to encircle adverse troops and launched onslaughts, often for many days running. *They thus put out of action 100,000 adverse troops, 40 battalions and battalion-size units.*

So, whether the US-puppets encamped around urban centres or strove to fan out or established "bolts" on heights of mountain areas, nowhere could they dodge the blows of the liberation forces. Aside from actions against the outer perimeter which took a heavy toll of enemy regular forces, particularly their mobile forces, the PLAF devastatingly raided a large number of their bases, CPs, logistical dumps of importance in the lowlands, coastal areas even in the towns, such as the bases at Vinh Trung, Ba Xoai (An Giang), Xeo Ro (Rach Gia), Ong Doc River (Ca Mau), Song Mao (Binh Thuan), Da Lat (Tuyen Duc), Chu Lai (Quang Nam) and My Thuy (Thua Thien), and depots at Deo Son, Vung Ro, My Ca, Cam Ranh, etc. The PLAF also made bold thrusts deep into such urban centres as Da Nang, Hoi An, Da Lat and Saigon.

Such strikes worsened the enemy passivity, compelled them to scatter their forces for the defence of their outer perimeters at a time when they had to muster substantial troop-strength to guard their positions in the towns. This situation provided the PLAF with opportunities to launch continual offensives on key points or new weak points of the adverse military defence system.

The "pacification" plan frustrated

ANOTHER consequential success of the people and the PLAF was *the foiling, step by step, of the "pacification" plan with coordinated military actions and popular uprising and the regaining of control over vast areas.*

The US-puppets exerted strenuous efforts to pacify the countryside. They resorted to savage repressive measures, set up posts and garrisons and hurled large forces into sweeps on rural areas while using demagogic tricks to fool the population in an attempt to obliterate guerrilla bases. In key pacification areas like those along the coast in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces and the plains of Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo, they carried out "special pacification" after "accelerated pacification" in the most brutal fashion. Nonetheless, in coordination with PLAF activities against the enemy's regular forces, especially their mobile forces, regional liberation troops, guerrillas and the population pushed up military and political actions and agitation work among enemy troops, and succeeded in baffling enemy plans. In summer, over half of the existing "strategic hamlets" were dismantled, dozens of thousands of puppet agents liquidated and vast areas brought under the people's control.

The people and their armed forces razed many garrisons, and invested, assailed and wiped out many military sectors. They knocked down a fairly large number of civil guards and militia companies, and disbanded tens of thousands of "civilian defence" members.

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IN brief, the "pacification" plan, the main prop of "Vietnamization," sustained grave setbacks even in key pacification sectors in 1970. The big successes achieved by the people and PLAF in South Viet Nam together with those of the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia, have paved the way for more substantial gains in the future

The so-called US "military exploits" in SVN

Unyielding Saigon

INFLEXIBLE WITH THE EMPLOYERS

ON December 12, representatives of the Saigon-Cholon - Gia Dinh hotel-employees' TU Committee of Struggle declared that its twenty thousand members working in these American establishments would stage a strike should the employers not comply with their request for a 50% wage - lift and an extra monthly pay.

On December 14, over 200 knitting and weaving TU members in Saigon held an extraordinary meeting for a 30 per cent rise, an extra monthly pay, and full pay and allowances to sick workers. The meeting also ruled that if their demand was not met, all the workers would go on strike or on a ca' canny.

ANTI - US CAMPAIGN

AS a protest against the Thieu-Ky clique's persecution of student and pupils and the murder of little Nguyen Van Minh at Qui Nhon, Saigonese students and schoolchildren have launched a spirited "anti-US campaign."

On December 15, a swashbuckling American got a sound thrashing in the streets. In the evening, a Pak Jung Hi troops car and an American car were burnt.

The following day, the students broke into the "Ministry of Education" in protest and distributed leaflets castigating the US and its Saigon quislings. Nguyen Hoang Truc, secretary-general of the Saigon Students General Association, pointed out that "If anyone or any force offends their national pride, the Vietnamese people of all walks of life will react with force."

On December 17, the Saigon scientific students issued a five-point strong statement against the indiscriminate killing of Vietnamese by GIs and South Korean troops. They staged an indignation school strike beginning December 18.

PRAYERS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE PEACE

ON December 15, the "Popular Front for Peace" and the "Women's Movement for the Right to Live" held a "pray for peace" service. The President of the Popular Front for Peace said that the South Vietnamese were longing for peace, and stressed "To re-establish peace, prayers are not sufficient, but actions."

On this occasion, the President of the "Women's Movement for the Right to Live" told of the misery of the South Vietnamese people throughout the last twenty five years, especially since the landing of US troops in South Viet Nam; she called on her fellow countrymen to unite closely in the common fight for national independence, freedom, and self-determination and insisted that Viet Nam's affairs should be settled by the Vietnamese themselves.

HUNGER STRIKE IN FRONT OF THE "LOWER HOUSE"

ON the morning of December 16, some puppet disabled servicemen staged in front of the Saigon "Lower House" a hunger strike in protest against the volte-face of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique who gave orders to pull down 71 huts, thus rendering about one hundred war invalids' families homeless. The protestors declared that unless such double-dealing ended, they would take stronger actions.

A NEW SELF - IMMOLATION ATTEMPT

ON December 20 a superior bonze of the An Quang sect wanted to take his own life by burning at An Quang pagoda in protest against "the acts committed by allied forces against the Vietnamese people," but the male and female bonzes at the pagoda succeeded in putting out the fire.

THE ANTI-POPULAR CAMPAIGN STILL ON

FROM September 15 to mid - December, 1970, 227,000 people in Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh were illegally arrested for questioning of whom 5,660 would face trial. In other cities and towns such as Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, My Tho, the "Campaign for the People" went on against the mounting movement of protest against the quislings.

US - TYPE "FREEDOM OF OPINION"

THE December 21 issue of the "Dispatch" was seized for running an article by an "MP" advocating neutralization of South Viet Nam.

DEMOCRACY IN SAIGON

AT a plenary session of the rubber stamp "Lower House" held on December 22, a bill was tabled to the effect that all candidates to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency should be adopted by 40 MP and 100 aldermen. They should be Vietnamese citizens having resided in Viet Nam at least ten years, aged at least 35, deposit 2 million piastres in the electioneering fund and should have no communist or neutralist sympathies.

"A SHRIMP'S BRAIN IN AN ELEPHANT'S HEAD"

SAIGON's *Tin Sang* carried on December 3 the following article by a well-known intellectual:

"400 US planes attacked North Viet Nam for 30 hours, allegedly as retaliation for the downing of a US spying plane. This has become the talk of the town in these last days of November. Many people have commented on this resumed bombing of North Viet Nam, both in the country and abroad, so I only give some impressions, being an ignoramus in military affairs.

When on Saturday night (November 21, 1970) the BBC announced that the USA had resumed its bombing of North Viet Nam, the first image that flashed into my mind was that of young Phon Quoc. No relative of mine, he is a native of Vinh Quang, close to the demilitarized zone north of the 17th parallel. In the small hours of May 24, 1970 when he returned from a night fishing expedition, a US plane came rocketing, perhaps in "self-defence" "retaliation"... If these were ordinary rockets, nobody would have mentioned Quoc and I would not have known of him. But these were a new kind of rockets newly used by the Americans in Viet Nam. Upon bursting, they release countless tiny steel darts which penetrate deep into your flesh and can be extracted only by surgery. One of these darts penetrated Quoc's chest and stuck to his backbone. It was extracted surgically. But as it had hit two blood vessels, an artery and a vein which have been joined, now Quoc cannot make any brisk movement or any effort for it can separate the two vessels and cause an internal haemorrhage.

His particular case has drawn the attention of a French professor of medicine then visiting North Viet Nam. In its issue of October No 1,004 the *Express* briefly reported his story, with two illustrations: Quoc's photo and that of the vicious dart on his backbone. He was said to be 19 years but looked about 14 or 15, like my son, whose resemblance to him always reminds me of the poor boy.

On that night of November 21, after a flush of astonishment, bewilderment and indignation, Quoc's image came back to my mind with a sad and resigned look. I wondered whether Vinh Quang village was bombed that night and what had become of Quoc. How many tiny darts had pierced the flesh of other Quocs this time ?...

For me, North Viet Nam is not a noun, a map or a state swayed by a hostile ideology. For me, North Viet Nam is Phon Quoc, and through his image it is 17 million people each with his bones, flesh, name, age, father, mother, brother, sister, wife, children, friends, red blood, yellow skin, and a "Vietnamese" name like myself ; 17 million fellow-countrymen that I have not yet met, a half of my native land that I have not yet visited. For me, North Viet Nam is also hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese who had fought throughout nine years for this nation then were regrouped to the North. Among them a cousin of mine whom I most cherish for I lived with him when a child, dreamed with him when a youngster, and enlisted with him in 1945. Then I was demobilized while he remained in the army. After that I went to France and he joined Battalion 307. I returned home to teach in the Republic of Viet Nam whereas he went North to become a citizen of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

On this night of November 21, I thought of him and of all those who went and had not returned since that autumn. Who fought for Norodom Palace to become Independence Palace ? How have they been rewarded by this land ? Nine years of resistance, four years of bombing of North Viet Nam. Of those who have been gone since that autumn, how many have survived there ? What happened to them during the bombing of November 21 ?

For me, North Viet Nam is made up of these images, these queries in the still night, amidst the mounting waves of indignation. It is precisely these images and these queries that arouse me against the propaganda stunts of those self-styled "nationalists" after the resumed bombing of North Viet Nam.

For the sake of the last shred of their honour as "nationalists," they had better wait for another opportunity to show their allegiance towards the USA.

As back as the beginning of this century, Theodore Roosevelt, the President who generated US imperialism already developed a most simple foreign policy called the Big Stick Policy.

"Speak softly but have a big stick," he used to recommend to people "and you will go far". For over the past 70 years the USA has gone very far, the US stick has become the biggest in the world. Today President Nixon seems to take to the letter his predecessor Thoedore Roosevelt's advice: he speaks softly and strikes hard with his stick.

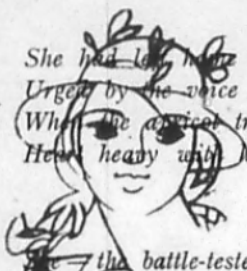
Nevertheless, the small nations have become stronger than before and have got their own sticks which are quite efficient in spite of their tininess. The USA therefore finds it increasingly difficult to use its own one effectively.

However big a stick may be, it cannot replace a brain. I am afraid that the USA has grown as enormous and strong as an elephant but is commanded by a shrimp's brain.

A shrimp's brain in an elephant head, such is the tragedy not only for the USA but for the whole world today.

The girl ammunition carrier from Hue

In the cloudless sun, she was carrying munitions,
The wind was playing with clouds, and the trees and foliages joining in,
Her steps stumbling their way through cutting stones,
Back been with load, heart bursting with love.



She had left home since the blazing spring
Urged by the voice of the native land,
When the apricot trees were in bloom,
Heart heavy with hatred and laden with love.

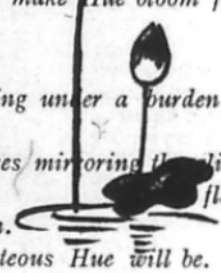
She — the battle-tested lass
*Who had faced the foe at Song, Van Duong**
And at Dong Ba gate had sealed off Thong Nhat* road,*
Her resolve unshaken by bombs and bullets;

She — the ferry girl at a small landing stage,
Who, when our fire was fierce, had taken across wounded boys
And guided guerillas in an interception coup,
Her boat loaded with feats of arms and gratitude;

She — the schoolgirl in the heart of Hue,
Who had spent sleepless nights listening to the boom of guns from her home village,
Now a militia girl, a rifle slung across her back,
Sniping at the GI's in broad daylight, in the streets and parks.

Toting ammunition today, the Hue lasses
In water lily-shaped hats with brim turned up high like the the Truong Son Range,
Were glowing with the flush of youth, in innumerable numbers,
Brimming with confidence and burning with hate.

Their Hue was still in hostile hands,
Crushed under the weight of centuries of humiliation and sufferings,
The bullets they were transporting [illegible] gold
Would blast the foe to pieces and make Hue bloom for ever.



Oh you, the Hue lasses, marching under a burden of munitions,
In the Truong Son sun, with eyes mirroring the glitter of the flag's star,
Hue is waiting for you to return.
Once the ordeal over, more beauteous Hue will be.

VU DUONG

* Places in Hue famous as scenes of grim battles during the Spring 1968 offensives.

Impressive Meeting Marks NFL 10th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY IN SOUTH VIET NAM

Reportage by Giai Phong *Press Agency*

IN the rousing atmosphere of successes on all battlefronts to greet in a practical way the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL, at a time when remarkable achievements were gained in all fields by our 17 million Northern fellow-countrymen and by the peoples and armed forces of Laos and Cambodia, the NFL Central Committee held an impressive meeting to mark the great historical day — the day on which 10 years ago the NFL was founded.

From mountains and jungles, from plains and from cities, beloved sons of South Viet Nam gathered here, in this cradle of the anti-US resistance movement, to celebrate the birthday of their organization. Present at the ceremony were representatives of the heroic PLAF, the People's Armed Security Forces, the Fighting Self-Defence Units, the Young Volunteers, and Guerillas operating on strategic highways, in hamlets and villages. Were also attending representatives of the working class, peasantry, religious bodies, intellectuals, industrialists, tradesmen, students and pupils from occupied cities, the press, Radio, *Giai Phong* Press Agency, cameramen, photo-reporters, cadres of various levels and branches.

The assembly had the privilege of welcoming a number of revolutionary veterans and representatives of families having helped the Resistance.

The attendance included members of the NFL Central Committee, those of the VNANDPF Central Committee, the President, Vice-President, Ministers and Vice-Ministers of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, representatives of various political parties and mass organizations within the NFL and the Alliance at the central level, representatives of NFL and Alliance Committees at regional levels and finally representatives of the local population.

On the Presidium were: Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and of the Advisory Council of the SVNR PRG; Huynh Tan Phat, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and President of the SVNR PRG; Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council of the PRG; Ibih Aleo, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, President of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux and Member of the Advisory Council of the PRG; Phung Van Cung, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and Vice-President of the PRG; Buddhist Superior Thich Thien Hao, Member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee; Chief Priest Nguyen Van Ngoi of the Cao Dai Tien Thien Sect, Member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee; Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, Member of the NFL Central Committee; Mrs Nguyen Thi Dinh, Member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union and Deputy-Commander of the PLAF; Nguyen Huu The, Member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association.

Dec. 19, 1970, 9 a.m., the meeting began with a flag-hoisting ceremony while a band struck "Liberate the South" and "Hymn to Fallen Heroes." Chief Priest Nguyen Van Ngoi, Member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, opened the meeting by saying:

"... This grand commemoration of the 10th founding anniversary of the NFL is taking place in an atmosphere of enthusiasm generated by the news of repeated successes coming from all South Viet Nam battlefronts, of steady progress from the Northern part of our Fatherland, of considerable gains of our Lao and Khmer brothers, and of increased friendly support from all corners of the world..."

Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, then took the floor. His important speech highlighted the various landmarks in the struggle and growth of the NFL during the past ten years and outlined the tasks of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces for the days to come so as to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and their Thieu-Ky-Khiem valets, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate national reunification.

"Ten years ago," the NFL leader said, "in the flush of the dramatic 1959-1960 concerted uprisings, and in the sweeping revolutionary impetus of the South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation was founded to lead the resistance of the South Vietnamese people. That was a political event of paramount importance, having a far-reaching impact upon the development of our people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

In the last ten years, under the inspiring banner of the South Viet Nam NFL, our armed forces and people closely united have been fighting with great courage and have foiled all aggressive plans of the enemy with increasing and comprehensive success."

After reviewing the process of US aggression against Viet Nam and more particularly against South Viet Nam, and the various stages of the Southern people's and armed forces' gruelling and valiant resistance against the US imperialists and their henchmen, Dr Nguyen Huu Tho bared the craftiness, perfidy and stubbornness of the Nixon administration in its prolongation of the war in South Viet Nam, renewed aerial attacks against North Viet Nam, expansion of hostilities to Cambodia and stepped-up military activities against Laos.

"Faced with this new situation," he stressed, "the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, side by side with the Northern armed forces and people, have strengthened their unity and increased their coordination with the brother armed forces and peoples of Cambodia and Laos, relentlessly attacking and wiping out US aggressors and troops of US lackeys. Within a short period, the Khmer armed forces and people, under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea headed by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, have gained control over two-thirds of the land, liberated over 3 million of its population. The Lao armed forces and people under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front led by Prince Souphanouvong, have inflicted reverses on the army of the US on various battlefields.

"The Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference has reinforced the blood-sealed militant solidarity between the three Indochinese peoples, secured a posture of strategic offensive in each country from which series of setbacks have been wreaked on, and total victory will certainly be achieved over the US imperialists and their agents.

"The 'Vietnamization' move is a strategic manœuvre of the darkest perfidy prompted by the US losing position, an undertaking full of irreconcilable contradictions and weaknesses. The more the US prolongs and expands the war, the weaker and more scattered its forces become. Political agitation in the South Vietnamese towns will grow ever more serious, the people's protest will intensify, the stooge administration will become more and more isolated, its inner dissensions will aggravate, its economy and finance will be plunged into a graver crisis and chaos, the morale of the American and puppet troops will sink to a lower ebb. The anti-war movement in the United States will surge more powerfully, the US administration will be rent by deeper divisions. The US and its puppets will face more alarming estrangement and stronger condemnation in the world. The US imperialists' complete defeat in Viet Nam and Indochina is unavoidable..."

On behalf of the NFL Central Committee, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho commended the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in the plains, mountain regions and urban centres, as well as all echelons and branches of activity, for their tremendous contributions to the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. He expressed the deep gratitude of the Southern people and the Liberation forces to their Northern kith and kin and their friends all over the world.

After exposing the Nixon administration's vicious schemes and obstinate stance, the NFL Chairman remarked:

"So long as the US imperialists carry on their aggression against South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people will resist them with arms in hand. So long as they continue military ventures against the North of our country, we shall resolutely retaliate with due force for these. In doing so, we are in our imprescriptible right to self-defence."

Finally, on behalf of the National Front, Dr Nguyen Huu Tho called on all fighters and cadres, on all social strata in the mountain, rural and urban areas, on Vietnamese nationals abroad to further close their ranks around the NFL and the PRG of the SVNR so as, together with their northern fellow-countrymen and fighers and the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples, to rush ahead in the impetus of their successes to total victory, thereby fulfilling their national duty and lofty international obligations.

Taking next the floor was Dr Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-Chairman of the PRG Advisory Council

"In this stirring atmosphere of victory," Dr Trinh Dinh Thao said, "we members of the VNANDPF delegation feel most happy to attend the commemoration of the 10th founding anniversary of the National Front for Liberation, the organizer and leader of the successful patriotic war of the fourteen million South Vietnamese.

On behalf of the Alliance Central Committee, of all organizations and members at every level of the Alliance, I wish to offer to Mr Chairman and the members of the NFL Central Committee our highest consideration and warmest greetings."

After recalling the emergence of the NFL, Dr Trinh Dinh Thao stressed:

"... All through the last ten years since its founding, the National Front for Liberation, under the banner of its great cause, has been the architect of the South Vietnamese people's steady and substantial progress. The South Vietnamese revolution has gone through deep changes: the US imperialists and their lackeys have suffered staggering reverses, their aggressive will has been initially shaken. They are at present confronted with innumerable difficulties in all battlefields, with a military, political, economic and financial deadlock, not only in Viet Nam but in the USA and the world as well."

"On this glorious day of our nation," Dr Thao concluded, "the VNANDPF Central Committee solemnly affirms that the Alliance will reinforce unity and coordinate actions with the South Viet Nam NFL; it pledges to fight for the realization at any cost of its political program and of the NFL line to bring the resistance against US aggression to total victory, to achieve its objective — independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and eventual peaceful reunification of the country, and to do their bits in the world's peoples drive for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress."

Then, by turns, spoke Mr Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, President of Tay Nguyen Peoples' Movement for Self-Government, member of the PRG Advisory Council; Reverend Thich Thien Hao of the Buddhist Church, member of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee; Nguyen Van Ngoi, a Caodaist Superior of the Tien Thien tendency, member of NFL Central Committee; Seminary professor Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, also member of the NFL Central Committee. All of them voiced determination to increase further the solidarity of the members of their respective communities with the entire people in the fight against the enemy of the nation.

The gathering came to a close as the attendants chanted: "Hail the 10th anniversary of the NFL," "We are resolved to fulfil President Ho Chi Minh's last wishes: persist in and push ahead our patriotic struggle against US aggression until total victory."

All then sang "Let's liberate the South," anthem of the RSVN.

ANOTHER US-PUPPET ATROCITY

RECENTLY, US aggressors in Qui Nhon town killed Nguyen Van Minh, a pupil of 12, when he was waiting in front of his school to get into his class.

This dastardly murder has stirred up high indignation among various sections of the South Vietnamese people. A wave of vigorous protest against the Americans and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique has been surging in Qui Nhon town and Saigon city.

In Qui Nhon, upon learning of this news about 4,000 people from all walks of life paraded Minh's corpse through the streets, shouting "Americans must quit!", "Punish the murderers!" All the pupils in the town have gone on a class boycott. Vietnamese personnel in US bases have launched a general strike. A "Committee of struggle" has been set up by the pupils and the townsfolk, which has sent an ultimatum demanding compensation for the offence against Viet Nam's honour and the handing over of the murderers to Vietnamese jurisdiction...

In Saigon, from December 12 to 18, a tumultuous drive was initiated by the pupils, students and citizens. About 2,000 school and college boys and girls took to the streets and demonstrated before the US Embassy. Hunger-strikes and sit-ins against the crimes of the Americans, puppets and satellites, burning of Nixon's effigies, and angry slogans calling for US withdrawal have scared the Yanks off the streets. The students threatened more forceful actions if the US-puppets did not deliver the boy's assassin to Vietnamese jurisdiction.

Under the impact of this ebullient protest, Nguyen Van Thieu on the one hand resorted to brutalities and on the other strove to misrepresent the people's reaction in an attempt to cover his clique's crimes and whitewash those of his American bosses. Cudgels and rockets were used against the demonstrators. Psywar compounded with abject slanders and threats by Radio Saigon warned that the pupils and students' actions may "impair the diplomatic relations with the Allies" and "violate clause No 13 of the Constitution." Nguyen Van Thieu had the cheek of stating that he had agreed with the Americans to let the US Army Court handle the case.

This unpalatable happening has again thrown a strong light on the Saigon quislings' true colours as heartless foreign agents for whom the life of a South Vietnamese is not worth a farthing, and national honour is a mere mockery.

The slaying was not an isolated incident. Countless people have been slaughtered in this US war of aggression, horrible massacres committed like the Ba Lang An, Son My, Kong H' Ring, Khanh Lam, Rach Gia..., others people cut down in the streets like taxi driver Nguyen Van Bay, raped and murdered like Mme Bac and her daughter last month, thrown out of helicopters in flight, children torn into halves and thrown into the fire in Viet Nam, or people ran over in Okinawa, Japan, recently, all this shows that US aggression is everywhere accompanied by death and suffering for the local people.

Only a stiff resistance to aggression and elimination of traitors cooperating with foreign aggressors can bring an end to the tragedy which has been lacerating our land over the past ten years.

NFL Anniversary Widely Observed Abroad

PEOPLE throughout the world have commemorated in most lively and multiform ways the founding anniversary this year of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Meetings have been held in the Soviet Union, China, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania... for the grand historical day.

They were attended by many State and Party leaders.

Cables of congratulation to Lawyer Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and the South Viet Nam NFL were received from all over the world.

In the **Soviet Union**, at a grand meeting held in Moscow, N.S. Tikhonov, Vice-Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet said: "Throughout our country, the words 'Viet Nam' are resounding from the heart of every Soviet man and woman like a cogent appeal. Fraternal solidarity with the Vietnamese people's just struggle against US aggression has become a pattern of our people's political and social life."

In **China**, more than 10,000 delegates of various segments of the Pekinese attended a celebration of the NFL anniversary at the National People's Congress Hall. Speaking on this occasion, Yao Wen-yuan, Political Bureau member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, said: "The Vietnamese people and peoples of the three fraternal Indochinese countries can be assured that from now on in their struggle, however big obstacles and difficulties they may face, the Chinese people will always stand at their sides, unite with them and together with them will fight until final victory."

In **Hungary**, when receiving a visiting NFL delegation on the occasion of the NFL 10th founding anniversary, Haromati, Vice-Chairman of the Hungarian Patriotic People's Front, said: "The Hungarian people have so far kept the NFL anniversary as one of their own great festive days. They have constantly been following the South Vietnamese people's struggle with their most profound sympathy."

Exhibitions on the achievements of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces over the past 10 years of combat and construction were organized in the capitals of **Korea** and **Hungary**.

The money collections in support of Viet Nam on the same occasion have been pushed ahead throughout the **German Democratic Republic**. The Berlin Radio broadcast concerts and received more than 2,000,000 marks from the listeners from all parts of the country for Viet Nam.

In **Cuba**, before December 20, active preparations for this festive day of the South Vietnamese people were made in several parts of the country.

In a communiqué on its program of actions, the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, stressed that "this is a historical anniversary of particular importance and significance." Awards of war booty presented by the NFL Central Committee were distributed to units and individuals which had recorded most outstanding achievements in the 1970 sugar cane harvesting. The Cuban Radio, TV and press ran detailed features on the NFL great day. The Cuban Education Ministry instructed pupils of all levels to acquaint themselves better with Viet Nam.

In **Poland**, many Vietnamese films were shown in several cinemas in Warsaw. The Polish Peace Committee put out a communiqué hailing the accomplishments of the South Vietnamese army and people in the past 10 years.

The NFL anniversary celebrations have also been held with similar enthusiasm in many other countries.

In **Algeria**, a "Week for Solidarity with the Vietnamese People' was observed throughout the country. The Leading Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party in an appeal called on the Algerian people to step up their support for Viet Nam.

In **Syria**, the TV station arranged a special program of Vietnamese films, and the Syrian press published editorials praising the South Vietnamese people's indomitable resistance against the US aggressors and for national liberation.

Peoples of many countries in Northern and Western Europe and Japan held demonstrations, meetings, gatherings and film shows to introduce Viet Nam.

The Swedish Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam presented to the representative of the Information Bureau of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in Sweden a sum of 60,000 krones for the NFL. The Organization to support South Viet Nam NFL distributed 700,000 leaflets dealing with the NFL ten years of achievements.

In **Japan**, at a commemorative meeting for the NFL anniversary, Tokayoshi Kaneko who had been going to work wearing a board on his chest calling for support to Viet Nam, announced that the collection of 200,000 yens before December 20 for the Vietnamese people had been completed ahead of schedule.

In **Belgium**, the "Committee of Action Against Imperialism" of the Belgian youth in a communiqué urged Belgians to contribute to a fund for purchases of medicines for the South Vietnamese people.

Many *West German youth organizations* have been carrying out activities in support of the Vietnamese people against the US aggressors. The "100,000 Marks for Viet Nam" movement has been getting warm response from broad masses of the West German youth and people.

In **Denmark**, the "Viet Nam Committee 1969" and the "Denmark Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam" sponsored celebrations of the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL. It has sent telegrams of congratulation to the NFL and the SVNR PRG.

In **Norway**, the Movement in Support of Viet Nam organized a party for the NFL founding anniversary. In a message to the South Viet Nam NFL, the Norwegian Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, made known that in the recent past it had drawn 15 political parties and mass organizations into a protest against the new US war acts. The Committee voiced confidence in the Vietnamese people's complete victory in their just fight against the US imperialists for national salvation.

In **France**, the Congress of French Communist Youth with more than 1,200 delegates from over 8,500,000 members staged a week of big demonstrations against the US aggressive war in Indochina. Multiform activities in support of Viet Nam have been carried out in many localities for the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL.

One of the most lively and multiform ways of commemorating the NFL 10th founding anniversary in the world.

A YEAR OF THE LAO AND KHMER PEOPLES' GREAT VICTORIES

LAOS

1970 saw the defeat of the Vang Pao bandits, and the recovery and consolidation of vast areas under the LPF's control.

Early in the Spring, after wiping out an important part of the US-fostered Vang Pao "special forces," the Lao patriotic forces recovered the whole of the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang region. This gave a hard blow to the Nixon's doctrine of making the Lao fight one another, and his formula of US weapons plus puppet infantry tested for the first time in Laos.

After the failure, the US imperialists continued breeding up the Vang Pao "special forces." They urged Thailand mercenaries to enter the scene to help Vang Pao bandits reinforce the Sam Thong—Long Cheng defences for nibbling attacks on this strategic region. The US also used its war planes, especially B.52 strategic bombers, to attack the liberated area. US officers directly commanded operation "Thanong Kiet" southwest of the Plain of Jars, operation "Kannha Kiet" in Muong Phin and along Highway 9, etc.

The Lao patriots in the liberated areas fought off all enemy nibbling attacks while intercepting spies, commandos and bandits along the country's eastern border.

Along with attacks on Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai mercenaries in Sam Thong—Long Cheng and Nha Hon areas, the Lao patriotic forces, in close coordination with the Khmer patriots, gave series of battles in Lower Laos, overrunning Saravane and Attopeu towns. The Lao liberated areas now make a long stretch, from north to south, and form with the Cambodian and South Viet Nam liberated zones a new battle order.

The Lao patriots' victories in the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang, Saravane, Attopeu and in other places is the last monsoon resulted in the wipe out of some 30,000 enemy, the heavy decimation of the Vang Pao "special forces," a mainstay of the US war in Laos.

CAMBODIA

In the first two months of their armed struggle, the Khmer patriots, under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia headed by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, wiped out 30,000 US and Saigon troops among them nearly 12,000 GIs; shot down 400 aircraft; destroyed 2,400 military vehicles and hundreds of artillery pieces and mortars.

In a short time, the Cambodian army and people liberated two-thirds of the territory inhabited by nearly 3 million people. Liberated areas stretch either side of the Mekong, forming a noose around the enemy in areas of their temporary control.

The Lon Nol puppet administration mustered most of its forces for the defence of Phnom Penh, while launching desperate counter-attacks to break the encirclement. But, they suffered heavy losses, like in Kririrom, Skoun, Teang Kauk, Kompong Cham, Siem Reap, and other places. Dozens of their battalions were annihilated, and many brigades and multi-battalion units were trounced on Highways 4 and 6. The Saigon puppet army shared the same fate in Krek and Chup (Kompong Cham).

Cambodia has become very hot for the enemy. In the first 250 days since the breaking out of hostilities, the Khmer patriots wiped out or disbanded more 130,000 GIs and Saigon and Phnom Penh puppet troops, knocking out, decimating, or disbanding more than 130 battalions. A number of sector or sub-sector headquarters were disposed of.

15th founding anniversary of the Lao Patriotic Front (Jan. 6, 1956 — Jan. 6, 1971)

The Lao people will certainly win!

THE Lao Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong was exactly fifteen years old on Jan. 6, 1971. In spite of its young age, it has been steering the Lao national liberation revolution through successive storms and nearer and nearer to the haven of glory.

Over the last 15 years, the Lao people under the banner of justice of the Patriotic Front, have been valiantly confronting a powerful, warlike and most crafty imperialism—the US. With its momentous successes in all fields, the Lao Patriotic Front has driven the Pentagon and White House gun-dealers into a stalemate.

The US imperialists have endeavoured to nip in the bud the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao people's struggle by many a scheme and manœuvre but it has been labour lost. Twice they toppled coalition governments in which representatives of the Front participated, cracked down upon the Front members, arrested and jailed many of its leaders including Prince Souphanouvong, encroached upon Sam Neua and Phongsaly, the two regrouping provinces of the Pathet Lao, sought by all means to destroy the Pathet Lao armed forces and to extend the war to the whole of Laos. But they have not been able to prevent the Lao people's drive for independence, peace and neutrality from progressing.

The bitter, all round setbacks sustained by the US imperialists and their Vientiane agents forced them to sign the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, by which Lao independence, sovereignty neutrality, unity and territorial integrity were recognized. A tripartite national coalition government was set up. But drawing no lesson from their past errors, they brazenly scuttled the tripartite national coalition government openly introduced US military personnel into Laos and sent US planes on bombing missions against the Lao free zone. Thus started the US special war in Laos. The gruelling struggle of the Lao people and armed forces switched on to a new stage in which they have recorded very substantial gains: 150,000 US-puppet troops have been put out of action, 52,600 US firearms captured and nearly 1,600 US aircraft downed or destroyed on the ground. One half of the Lao territory with two-thirds of the population has been liberated.

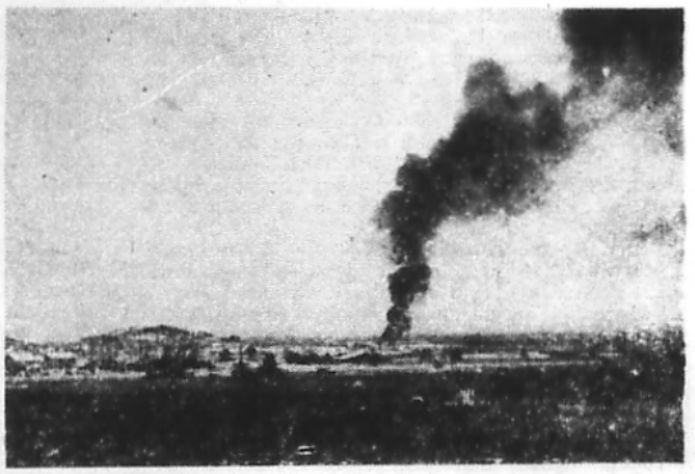
Under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao people have consolidated their liberated areas with an elected administration, a stable agriculture, a nascent industry which are the foundations for future development, a progressive culture, education and medical network, which daily alters the face of the free zone. The Patriotic Front's international status has been constantly strengthened. It was in that conjuncture that on Oct. 21 1968 the Lao Patriotic Front put forward its 12-point Political Program and on March 6, 1970 its 5-point Political Solution which represented great landmarks in the Lao revolution and expounded the deep aspirations and desires of the Lao people of all walks of life. These documents elicited a warm response in Laos and in foreign countries as well, and further enhanced the prestige and influence of the Lao Patriotic Front in the world arena.

The South Vietnamese people share with the brother Lao people the joy of celebrating the historic Jan. 6 and warmly cheer of commemorating the tremendous successes of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces and the Lao people.

Close comrades-in-arms of the Lao people, they are well aware that their common enemy—US imperialism—is still very obdurate and tricky. But in the course of nearly a century, starting from almost nothing, the three Indochinese peoples have achieved strong unity and defeated French imperialism and are now dealing hard blows at the US imperialists and their lackeys. No reactionary forces on earth can subdue them.

The South Vietnamese people pledge strict adherence to the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference and closer unity with the peoples and armed forces of Laos and Cambodia and coordinated actions with them in the fight for national independence.

The South Vietnamese people, the NFL and SVNR PRG are firmly confident that continuing their tradition of unflinching struggle against foreign aggression, and promoting their perseverance and inventiveness, and their determination to defeat the US aggressors and their henchmen, the LPF together with the Lao Patriotic Neutralist forces, which enjoy full support from the world peoples, will certainly win full success in their anti-US struggle.



Pathet Lao Armed Forces attacking the enemy positions in the Plain of Jars

The Soviet Red Cross Society has sent a telegram to its South Viet Nam counterpart, expressing its concern over the recent flood in South Viet Nam and notifying it that the Soviet Peace Fund and the Society would present the flood-stricken population with a quantity of food-stuffs, cloths and medicines.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ According to *GPA*, on the night of December 24, the puppet armed forces in Saigon assailed the Minh Mang university quarter and arrested groundlessly 500 students.

These acts of repression by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique against students have aroused a high wave of indignation among all walks of life in Saigon.

■ On December 9, the Union of Overseas Vietnamese in France handed over to the Information Bureau of the SVNR PRG in Paris a sum of 2,800,000 (old) francs donated by the Union members to South Viet Nam flood victims.

■ On Nov. 30, taking the floor at a troop review on the 3rd anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Mr Salem Rabayee Ali, President of the Presidential Council of Yemen, voiced full support to the resistance of the three Indochinese peoples against US aggression and insisted that the US withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam.

■ The Supreme Leadership of the Finnish People's Democratic Front has passed a resolution in support of Viet Nam and calling on the Finnish people to actively contribute to a "Support Viet Nam Fund" to help build a medical centre for Viet Nam, under a plan agreed to by progressive organizations in Finland.

■ A joint communiqué between the Liberation People's Front of Arab Gulf and the Liberation National Democratic Front of Oman and Arab Gulf recently made public in Aden reaffirmed strong support for the effort of the three Indochinese peoples against the US aggressors and their agents.

■ The National Congress of French Scientific Workers meeting in Paris has approved a resolution strongly critical of US use of chemical weapons in its war of aggression against Indochina and urging the French scientific research establishments to devote a major part of their budget and personnel to studying the noxious effects of this barbarous kind of warfare.

Letter to religious circles in US

(Continued from page 2)

President Nixon has also to answer before God and before the American people, for deliberately prolonging the war, and squandering American lives and wealth in an immoral and illegal adventure whose only result is ever heavier damage to America's honour, prestige and economy.

To lead America out of the present blind alley, there is obviously for the US Government no other way but to end this criminal war, withdraw rapidly all US troops from South Viet Nam, stop backing the rotten, dictatorial Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta, and leave the South Vietnamese people alone to settle their internal affairs.

We South Vietnamese Catholics pray that, in devotion to God and patriotism, all Christian organizations and individuals, clergymen and laymen alike, will join other believers in every effort to bring the war to an early end, so that the people of Viet Nam, Indochina, America and throughout the world may enjoy, in a real peace, all their sacred national rights.

May God bless all of us with a Spring-time in peace and happiness.

South Viet Nam, December 22nd, 1970

¡Venceremos!

ON January 1st, 1959 the Cuban insurrectionists under the leadership of Fidel Castro victoriously marched on Havana, after fulfilling with glory their national liberation mission.

It was the crowning of a long, arduous and extraordinarily valiant resistance of the Cuban people against the Spanish and North American aggressors, an accomplishment of the line of revolutionary armed struggle starting with the well-known Moncada Insurrection staged on July 26, 1953 by the Cuban patriots headed by Fidel Castro, who fought with a grim determination and secured for themselves an opportunity to liberate their Fatherland.

Since its birth, the Republic of Cuba has given proof of its vitality and achieved feats deeply puzzling for the US imperialism and its lackeys and highly stimulating for the peoples of Latin America and the whole world. In their direct confrontation with their sworn enemy — North American imperialism — the heroic Cuban people quickly wiped out in 1961 a band of US mercenaries in the Bay of Giron, foiled US aggressive designs and all its crafty plans to isolate and crush the Cuban revolution. US manœuvres to blockade Cuban economy were also thwarted. In a short time, the Republic of Cuba has made steady and swift advances in national construction.

Cuba now is the embodiment and pride of all labouring people of Latin America. It is a land where millions of men and women daily attend classes, where medicare is the most developed of all Latin American countries. Cuba ranks among the first 7 countries in the world in cattle-rearing. It is credited with record figures in agricultural production. In its 1970 sugar cane harvest, the yield was 52.5 tons per hectare on an average, surpassing by far pre-revolutionary figures (41.8 tons per hectare only in 1952) and total output reached nearly 9 million tons.

12 years after the triumph of the Revolution, Cuba has become a beacon in the Western Hemisphere. Its people are holding aloft the banner of independence, freedom and socialism. They are doing everything in their power to support the revolutionary effort of the peoples of Latin America and the world. Alarmed and angered at the growing influence of the Republic of Cuba in Latin America, the US imperialists are seeking every way and means to blot it out and wrest back their lost possessions. But with her improving winning posture and her increasing international prestige, she is in a position to check and defeat all enemy aggressive schemes and defend her territory.

The Vietnamese people and the Cuban people are comrades-in-arms sharing the same fighting trench. Both countries are indomitable outposts facing US imperialism in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. "Viet Nam" has as an endearing ring for every Cuban as Cuba has for every Vietnamese. The Party, Government and people of Cuba have always been giving unreserved support to the Vietnamese people's righteous fight. Premier Fidel Castro, Cuba's charismatic leader, once said: "The Cuban people closely unite with the brotherly Vietnamese people and fully support them, because the Vietnamese people have made the greatest contribution in blood and sacrifices to the world revolutionary nations. Our people wholeheartedly side with the South Vietnamese... and the NFL...", "For Viet Nam, we are prepared to offer even our blood." For the Cubans these words have the cogency of a command expressing their innermost feeling for their Vietnamese brothers.

The South Vietnamese are for ever grateful to the Cuban Party, Government and people for their heartfelt and priceless support.

On the 12th anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Cuba, the South Vietnamese convey to their Cuban brothers their warmest greetings.

May the Cuban people achieve more and greater successes in their national defence and construction! Their successes are ours and a powerful encouragement to our national liberation cause!

Premier Fidel Castro an d South Viet Nam youth delegation.

1970, A LANDMARK IN THE WORLD PEOPLES' SUPPORT FOR VIET NAM AGAINST US AGGRESSION

IN his speech delivered at the 10th founding anniversary celebration of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Dr Nguyen Huu Tho, its Chairman, said: "In their solidarity with us, the Governments and peoples of the socialist countries have granted to the South Vietnamese people a stauncher and stauncher political and material support. The Governments and peoples of peace - and justice-loving countries, democratic organizations and progressives in the world have afforded to our people an increasingly substantial assistance in our struggle for national liberation. The American people have taken energetic actions against the criminal war of aggression waged by the US imperialists in Viet Nam, a costly war which has smeared the honour of the US."

This warm support of our friends all over the world has greatly helped our people to hold in check the wicked giant of the 20th century, in which the year 1970 marked a major increase in the world peoples' support to Viet Nam against US aggression.

Never in American history had the White House made use of so huge a war-propaganda machine, spent such a big sum of dollars, advanced such a lot of specious arguments and resorted to such deceptive rhetoric to hoodwink public opinion as in 1970. In his world tour Nixon tried hard to sell his "peace" ware. Agnew was sent out to protest the US "peaceful intent," explain Nixon's Asian policy and slander the Vietnamese people as a bellicose aggressor. Nixon let off fireworks and held press conferences under the "peace" label. He had the cheek to egg on wives of American airmen caught red-handed in their crimes in Viet Nam to advertize his "humanitarianism" towards American servicemen.

Nixon used up all his propaganda stunts, from making white black to sending out show girl to seduce the world at large, but what he reaped was only abuses, rotten tomatoes, addle eggs and paint. Even his closest friends did not openly back him, except the British Prime Minister who odiously wooed him for financial purposes.

The outcome of the elections to the US Congress also showed the estrangement of Nixon and his friends even in the US.

1970 was in fact a year in which he came under heavy fire within and without the States.

Meanwhile the South Viet Nam people enlisted growing support from peace - and justice - loving mankind.

The world's peoples deeply concerned about the developments in Viet Nam were gratified at the news of our successes, anxious when there was a lull in the fighting and angry when the aggressors perpetrated more heinous crimes.

Any proposal made by the PRG of the SVNR on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem was certain to win their sympathy and support. South Viet Nam delegations present at friendly meetings was sure to receive a warm welcome. Religious dignitaries poured into the streets for demonstrations. Social, legal, literary and art workers also resolutely identified themselves with Viet Nam against the US. Scientists severely condemned Nixon's chemical and genocidal war on the strength of their findings. American servicemen also protested Nixon's war and championed Viet Nam's cause. At the Lusaka Summit Conference, the South Viet Nam delegation was honoured. A little girl who survived the Son My massacre was the object of great solicitude from the world's peoples who indignantly censured the US aggressors. When arrests of Saigon students and pupils were known, throughout the world students and pupils would take up the cudgels on their behalf. As soon as the "tiger cages" at Con Son were brought to their knowledge, millions of people shook their angry fists at the White House and Pentagon.

Progressive mankind's heart beat in unison with that of the South Vietnamese and showed them the kindest attentions.

Weren't the White House and Pentagon aware of all that? Maybe they were.

One thing so clear to progressive mankind but incomprehensible to the aggressors is that Viet Nam is an unyielding nation having a four-millenary culture and a glorious record of resistance against aggression; her people long for independence and freedom and pledge themselves to make every sacrifice rather than live in slavery.

The national task and internationalist duty of the South Vietnamese people is to defeat US imperialist aggression and in fact they are on the road to victory.

As their cause is a righteous one, their good will is left in no doubt, their eagerness to end the war is fairly evident, the South Vietnamese people have enlisted the support and sympathy of the peoples all over the world, including progressive Americans.

On the contrary, the US imperialists have brazenly waged the most atrocious war of aggression in history with a powerful army and the most lethal weapons in order to crush the will for independence and freedom of a people who have no feud with the American people but only want to live in equality and friendship with all peoples in the world including the Americans.

The unjust, inhuman, aggressive war, and peace hoax of the US imperialists are a blot on the US escutcheon and the target of vocal criticisms from of the peoples in the world and in the US.

Nixon hoped that his deception would calm down the protest movement mounting at the eleventh hour of the Johnson administration. But this illusion soon vanished and in 1970 angry outburst pressed that he unconditionally end the war, repatriate the GIs, forsake the Saigon quislings, and let Viet Nam's affairs be settled among the Vietnamese themselves.

Beaten in Viet Nam, Nixon was rash enough to invade Cambodia and step up the war in Laos, thereby touching off in the world and the US an anti-war movement in support of the Indochinese peoples and bringing closer together the South Vietnamese and their resourceful and dependable brothers-in-arms, the Cambodian and Lao peoples.

In 1970, the Indochinese peoples' front was consolidated, the world peoples' anti-US front in support of Viet Nam, of the Indochinese peoples, became stauncher and more effective.

Nixon's bombing of North Viet Nam and war threat late in 1970 only exasperated the world's peoples who identified themselves more intimately with Viet Nam in its confrontation with aggression.

We thank our friends all over the world for their profound sympathy with, and unstinted support to, our cause. We thank progressive Americans for their concerted actions with us and for having opened a front in the US against Washington's war of aggression in Indochina. The South Vietnamese people are resolved to do their best to deserve this confidence and to gloriously discharge their task as vanguard fighters against US aggression.